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merchants there is a great deal of loose book-keeping, while the art is one which ought to be understood by every man and woman who holds any pecuniary trust for others, or who stands in any business relation which admits of open accounts or suspended dues on either side.

25.—*Memoir of the Life of John Quincy Adams.* By JOSIAH QUINCY, LL. D. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co. 1858. 8vo. pp. 429.

WE supposed, until it was too late to supply the deficiency, that we had secured a full-length review of this work, which an almost filial love for the author, and profound interest in his subject, made us solicitous to welcome at the earliest moment. The book stands almost alone in literary history, as written by one far advanced towards fourscore years and ten, yet with unabated vivacity and vigor of thought, nay, with enthusiasm unquenched, and with no mark of senility except ripened wisdom. We love to think of his life, — its finished chapters dating far back toward the birth of our republic, and themselves portions of its fairest history, while the literary activity of his old age is adding the fame of successful authorship to the civic crown and the academic wreath. A statesman and legislator whose uprightness and purity maddened antagonists could not but acknowledge, a judge who dared to sweep away immemorial precedent when opposed to the right, a municipal magistrate whose wise forethought generations to come will have reason to bless, an educator of youth who could show them in history no worthier example than his own, and now the biographer of one his peer in firmness and integrity, and with whom, as we cannot help comparing them, he presents contrasts and resemblances equally numerous and impressive, — a monument of generations that have almost disappeared, and still keeping even step with the foremost ranks of the present, and the boldest pioneers of a better future, — he multiplies claims upon our reverence, such as belong to no living citizen of our country.

Mr. Quincy has performed his task in the work before us with eminent skill and with entire impartiality; nay, more, in certain parts of the narrative, with a judicious, but to us wonderful, reserve as to his own dissent and dissiliency from some of Mr. Adams's opinions and measures. Himself an ardent Federalist, and none the less so in his retrospect on the agitating questions of Jefferson's and Madison's administrations than when he was actively engaged in their discussion, he yet does ample justice to Mr. Adams's motives in those transactions by

which he lost for a season the confidence and support of the Federalists in his native State. That party, indeed, had, we imagine, claimed Mr. Adams less on personal than on hereditary grounds. Probably no party ever had his allegiance. Certainly he disappointed and opposed all. His orbit was beyond the calculation of political speculators. His vote or action could never be determined on antecedent grounds. He viewed every question on its own independent merits, and cast his vote, or shaped his policy, as he would had it been referred to his sole decision as an autocrat.

We have no time to enter into the discussion of Mr. Adams's character, to recount his signal and triumphant efforts for the freedom of debate and petition, to recall his noble plea for the liberty of the Amistad negroes, to trace the evidences of a profoundly religious spirit as the source of his civic virtues, or to exhibit the testimonials of a nation's honor and grief when the sudden arrow struck him down on the post of duty. For all this we hope to find the fitting pen in a future number. We will now add only our earnest desire that Mr. Quincy's Memoir may have the national circulation and acceptance it merits, and may perform its designed office in commanding the uncorrupt, disinterested patriotism of an earlier generation to what is certainly a more venal age and a less scrupulous public.

26.—*Liberal Education. An Address delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard College, July 22, 1858. By REV. THOMAS HILL, of Waltham. Cambridge: John Bartlett. 1858.*

As we listened to this address, the orator seemed to us as one standing on the elevated table-land which commands a near view of the separate summits of the several sciences, and communicating the results of his observation to those below in language as transparent as the atmosphere on those serene heights. The first impression is only deepened by the perusal of what it was our privilege to hear. It required courage in Mr. Hill to appear on such an occasion without a single paragraph or sentence that could be termed eloquent,—with a discourse as bare of ornament as a mathematical treatise; but the experiment was perfectly successful,—severe simplicity enrobed his thoughts with rare beauty, plain sense and sound philosophy transcended the ordinary mark of brilliant rhetoric, and the hearers were held in the same attitude of eager and gratified attention to which an audience is wont to be raised only by the strong effort of ambitious oratory.